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Q3: How do you see the future of nuclear politics in the Middle East after US and Israel attack on Iranian nuclear sites?

• **Introduction:** In the aftermath of US and Israel attacks on Iranian nuclear sites, the future of nuclear politics in the Middle East seems troubling. The strategy of pre-emptive strikes by both Israel and USA on Iranian nuclear sites blatantly violates the sovereignty of Iran and threatens its survival. Therefore, to ensure its survival and protect its sovereignty, Iran might pursue nuclear proliferation, destabilising the balance of power in the region and compelling other countries, especially Saudi Arabia to follow suit.

• **Background of Recent Attacks:**

Prior to the attacks on Iranian nuclear sites, there were negotiations happening between the USA and Iran, mediated by Qatar. There were positive chances of mediation and resolution of the issue as after the Obama regime such negotiations were carried out that involved high state officials for the first time in 2025.

• **US stance regarding Iranian Nuclear program:**

US wanted Iran to downgrade

or down blend its uranium enrichment to significantly low levels or abandon completely its Nuclear program. In case of non-compliance US threatened of severe sanctions on Iran.

• US rationale behind this stance against Iranian Nuclear Program:

US argues that since Iran is a signatory Non-proliferation treaty, it should remain true to its commitment. Iran building a Nuclear bomb will threaten and destabilise the region and would impact the whole region, pushing other countries to pursue the same agenda. This will threaten the regime of non-proliferation treaty making world a highly volatile and insecure.

• Iran's Stance on its Nuclear Program:

Iran has consistently maintained its stance that its Nuclear Program is based on peaceful use of Nuclear energy. The country does not have any goal of building a nuclear bomb. All of the nuclear sites are used for exploiting nuclear energy for civilian purposes such as power generation etc. Even Iran's Supreme leader has claimed that their "uranium Enrichment is solely based on making country energy independent and not a nuclear state."

(Ayatollah Khamenei)

• Nuclear Talks:

The high level nuclear talks comprising

of US special envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi were to be met for the third time, pertaining to talks started in 2025. However, Israel was not happy of these talks between US and Iran. Israel's insecurity with US-Iran Nuclear talks 2025:

Israel was apprehensive of the US-Iran nuclear talks that started in 2025.

Even before the talks started the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu was pushing for an attack on Iranian nuclear sites with the US coalition. Simi-

larly when the nuclear negotiations started Israeli Prime Minister did not approve of this diplomatic channel, and therefore, before the negotiations could bring fruit, Benjamin jeopardize the substantial negotiations just few days before the third round.

US-Israel attacks on Iranian Nuclear sites:

US-Israel attacks on Iranian Nuclear sites were a sheer violation of the UN charter. Although, ^{the} US first did not show any interest in joining the Israel assault on Iran that began on 13th of June. Moreover, US initially argued that it was not being informed by Israel of its plans of targeting Iran. But only after 10 days, the US joined

Israel aggressive designs against Iran, dropping 14 bunker buster bombs and launching multiple cruise missiles against Iranian nuclear sites.

- Iranian Retaliation:

In retaliation of the US strikes on its nuclear sites Iran attacked one of its military bases in the state of Qatar. Moreover, Iran said that it had the right to defend its sovereignty and use article 51 of the UN charter, legitimising its retaliation based on global legal regime.

- Ceasefire brokered by the US:

However, US President Trump brokered the ceasefire between Iran and Israel, claiming that Israel and US have achieved their aim of dismantling the Iranian Nuclear Program.

Implications of Attacks by US and Israel on Nuclear Politics in the region:

- ① Blatant violation of international law

Attacks by US and Israel based on the principle of pre-emptive strike completely disregard the international legal regime that ensures stability, security, and prosperity in the world. Blatant violation of international regime will make countries in the middle east more insecure towards each as well as other inter-



national states in absence of effective global legal regime. Therefore in order to secure their survival and security from countries like Iran and Israel other middle eastern countries especially Saudi Arabia and UAE could pursue nuclear weapons.

② Insecure Iran further destabilising the region

The US-Israel attacks have made Iran further insecure in the region. The attack on its nuclear sites despite IAEA, International Atomic Energy agency claims that 'Iran's nuclear program is not producing weapons-grade uranium, and they have not detected any diversion of material for weapon purposes'. Challenging Iran's sovereignty without any credible evidence and threatening its survival through pre-emptive strikes could make Iran to pursue such schemes of weapons grade uranium, pushing other states to follow suit.

③ Israel role as a hegemon of the Middle East a threat to peaceful Nuclear politics

Israel aggressive designs in the middle East in pursuit of making the state 'the Greater Israel' has further troubled the landscape of the nuclear politics. Israel sheer violation of international law in the middle

East, such as Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and now Iran has made the region critical and apprehensive of its imperial designs in the middle East. Therefore, with the nuclear ability as the only country in middle east and its aggressive and imperial designs could push other states to secure themselves from the this nuclear threat of Israel by getting one themselves.

- ④ **Power Politics in the Middle East:**
These attacks by the US and Israel has established Israel as a major player in the middle east, backed by the US. This has shifted the balance of power towards Israel and has made its prominent rival Iran insecure, aiming to balance the power dynamics in the region. To protect itself and regain balance of power Iran could pursue Nuclear Program.

- ⑤ **Impact on Nuclear Proliferation Treaty by a destabilise Middle East**
Iran pursuing a nuclear to safeguard itself from its brutal and aggressive rival Israel, could endanger the Nuclear proliferation regime in the Middle East as well as worldwide. Iran acquiring a Nuclear program could make other players in the middle East especially Saudi Arabia and UAE to pursue such designs, endangering the NPT regime and making nuclear politics destabilized.

Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad



Bin Salman has reiterated time and time again that Iran acquiring a nuclear weapon would compel Saudi Arabia to make one for itself."

way Forward:

In order to ensure peaceful nuclear politics following measures should be prioritized:

① Strengthening International Law:

Boosting international law holds prime importance in this regard so that nations like Israel could not jeopardize it to pursue their aggressive designs at cost of international peace.

② Effective Repercussions for violation of international legal regime:

Similarly ensuring effective repercussions for violation of international legal regime could protect weak countries like Iran from the violence of powerful state like US and Israel, causing them to adopt other designs to protect their survival.

③ Diplomacy as a remedy to ensure peaceful Iranian Nuclear Program
Solution to the Iranian Nuclear program lies in diplomacy. Powerful world leaders should understand that there is nothing effective in abandoning diplomacy.

④ Role of Global powers to strengthen NPT

World leaders should make sure for example countries like USA, Russia and China that NPT adherence

is crucial to a stable world, therefore every effort should be made that ensure its survival. In other words, Global countries and powers should not themselves indulge in aggressive designs that allow weaker state to opt out of NPT and adopt Nuclear weapons, for instance : US attacks on Iranian nuclear sites.

Conclusion:

US should understand that its operation against Iranian nuclear sites can make Iran pursue Nuclear weapons, that US aims to dismantle. Threatening Iranian Survival through strikes and sanctions could make the country to go against NPT regime. The solution lies only in diplomacy, allowing Iran to pursue its nuclear program under NPT, guided by safety measures and guidelines of IAEA.

Q no 4. How do you see water politics in the region after India's decision to move out of Indus water Treaty and China's decision to build the world largest dam on Brahmaputra River?

Introduction:

The future of water politics seems really bleak and volatile in the region after India's decision to move out of Indus water treaty and subsequently China's decision to build^{on} Brahmaputra river the

world largest dams. without effective diplomatic efforts among the major stakeholders and without robust political will to resolve the grievances over water sharing, the region stands at a major crossroad of destruction or peaceful coexistence.

Dynamics of water Politics in the region:

In the region, the dynamics of water politics are determined through two most important terms which are as follow:

Upper Riparian countries:

In the region, China is the upper riparian country with respect to most of the rivers that originates within India. However, India is the upper riparian with respect to its river waters in Pakistan.

In other words, River Indus and its tributaries originate in China and then come to Pakistan through Indian territory.

Lower Riparian countries:

In the region, lower riparian countries include India. India as most of its water sources originates from China. Pakistan, similarly, is a lower riparian as most of its river waters, the major chunk comes from India.

Tussle between Upper and Lower Riparian state:

In water politics, lower riparian states have time and time again raised their concerns regarding the brutal behaviour of the upper riparian with respect to water sharing. Upper riparian, in case of India is China and India has raised its concerns against Chinese dams projects aiming to divert water supply from important Indian river that originate from China.

Pakistan and India water politics:

In case of Pakistan, India is a upper riparian and despite Pakistan constant grievances against Indian dam projects such as Ratledam and Kishanganga dam on Pakistan rivers such as Chenab and Jhelum, India continues to involve in such designs and practices that threaten Pakistan's water security.

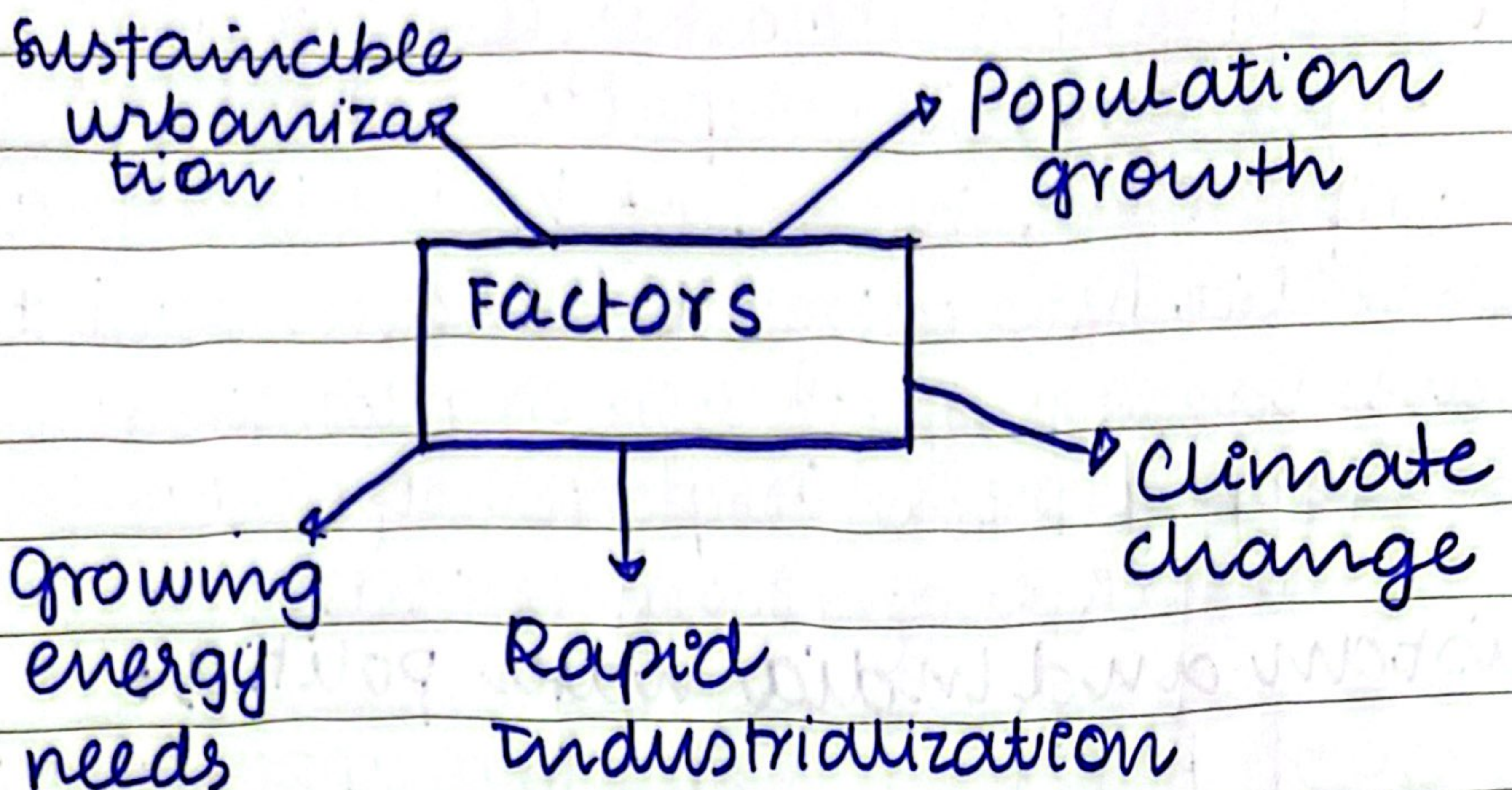
India's unaccommodating behaviour:

Though India's claim Chinese practices regarding water sharing as unjustified, it itself indulges in such practices when it comes to water sharing with Pakistan. It put obstacles with regards to water sharing data, PIC commission formation proceedings, and dispute resolving mechanisms.

Factors affecting water politics in the region:

There are various prominent factors that have substantially affected the water politics in the region and

determined its contours.



Recent Suspension of IWT and Background:

In the aftermath of Phalgam attack that happened on 22 April, 2025, killing 26 civilians, India held the IWT in abeyance without any legal basis.

Importance of IWT:

This historic treaty of IWT brokered by World Bank between India and Pakistan holds supreme importance for both countries.

- It stabilized the region by ensuring Pakistan's water security.
- It ensured rights of the lower riparian states like Pakistan through a peaceful mechanism.
- It survived more than six decades of war and was held as one of the most significant water accord between two nuclear states setting precedents for other

international water agreements.

China's decision to make ^{dam on} Barhamaputra River:

China's recent decision to make Barhamaputra ^{river} dam also destabilizes the region.

This project which is regarded as the world's largest dam has threatened the water security of the various lower riparian countries, especially India. With the increase in population growth and climate change, the region is already facing severe water crisis, making states insecure with respect to water availability.

Implications of Barhamaputra dam and IWT on water politics in the region:

① Threat of increased violence:

Both the abeyance of IWT and the construction of Indian opposed dam by China on Barhamaputra could allow Pakistan as well as India to opt for violence to ensure water security.

② Increased water insecurity, threatening survival

Increased water insecurity could threaten the survival the survival of lower riparian states like India and Pakistan impacting human lives.

③ Threat of Nuclear war

Since all the major stakeholders are nuclear armed states there



is a threat of an imminent nuclear crisis.

④ Disruption of world trade and supply chains.

In case of nuclear crisis in the region, it could significantly disrupt world trade and supply chains, impacting the global economy significantly.

⑤ Impact on international water politics.

the unjustified attitude of upper riparian could set precedents for other states to follow suit, jeopardizing other water agreements world wide.

way forward:

① Prioritising Diplomacy:

② Upholding bilateral agreements:

③ Using international organisations and institutes in ensuring peace:

(4) Global powers mediation to reduce threat of nuclear war.

Conclusion:

"If the war of this century were fought over oil, the wars of next centuries would be fought over water"

vice President world Bank.

This quote by vice president of world Bank illustrate importance of resolving the crisis through diplomacy and effective world leadership.

